

n: jdmiller1 [jdmiller1@wichita.edu]
it: Friday, December 05, 2003 11:38 PM
To: adoptionregs@state.gov
Cc: jdmiller1@wichita.edu
Subject: Hague Conference



Birch Letter.pdf Inman Letter.pdf Fishburn Letter.pdf

December 5, 2003

To: Joint Council on International Children's Services
1403 King Street, Suite 301
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Council Members,

Hello, I am a Wichita State University graduate nursing student and also adoptive parent to two girls from India.

While working on a project for a Nursing Issues class, I came across The Hague Conference legislation. The project deals with involvement with political issues that concern health and family. I was very excited to read the structure and intent of the legislation. The legislation appears to cover foreign adoption and children services well.

According to the published information, the legislation was to be enacted in 2004. This being the case, I would like to share some pressing questions regarding the legislation and the Immigration Services compliance with this legislation.

I have had close contact with a number of families within our small rural area and find that the same problems and issues that our family experienced with U.S. Immigration (Kansas City) are very similar to the setbacks and problems being experienced by local families completing foreign adoptions.

My husband and I completed adoption of our two daughters from India 17 years ago. The process with India was long and trying, but nothing could match our disappointment with KC INS when they refused to accept our documents we received from the courts of India. They denied our daughters visa's, insisting we needed to get yet another document of abandonment which was impossible for us to obtain. We ended our dilemma by my traveling to India and having a (brief) interview with the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, who issued the visa's. This cost extra money and emotional toll on our family that can't be placed into words. Our daughters were not able to come home with eight other children in the same orphanage, with the same documents, and their response was sleep disturbances and anorexia, causing our one daughter an extensive vitamin A deficiency.

I find that INS is still creating new requirements that are not on the extensive list of adoption requirements given with initial adoption requests. I am attaching letters from three families from this area who have had stressful experiences. I narrowed the number of letters to three to simply give an overview of the issues experienced.

Questions that have been proposed are:

1. Will the Hague Legislation fulfill all requirements needed by INS?
 2. Will this law be uniform across the board with all INS services?
 3. Does there exist an explanation as to why INS creates new requirements as they individually see fit.
- After 9-11 we all realize the need for homeland security, but children waiting to come home to their families is not a terrorist issue. Has it ever been

considered to:

1. Create a separate office within INS to solely deal with Adoption, family and health issues.

Could foreign adoption requirements all be stated initially for the families with no surprises added at the end.

Please let me know if there is any way I can further be involved with this issue. I plan to follow this legislation closely and make suggestion where I can.

Sincerely,

Jaynette Miller

1090-Diamond

Newton, Kansas 67114

jcmiller1@wichita.edu